

The allotment of time for the discussion of demands.

President.—We have carried over the head “Excise” from yesterday; also Customs, and so these two heads have to be disposed of first. Then we have got four heads for consideration to-day, viz., “Medical”, “Vaccination”, “Sanitation and Conservancy” and “Miscellaneous”. If it is possible to get through all these items, I would like to do it. I would accordingly allot 1½ hours for “Excise”.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—As regards the Medical Department, we have only two questions.

President.—So I need not be anxious about the time-limit.

Explanation of non-official position in regard to the cut motions passed.

President.—Now, in regard to the cut motions carried by the House yesterday and the day previous to it, I shall make my position clear. Referring to the cut motions carried by the House yesterday, in regard to the reduction of 40 thousand rupees by Rs. 20,000 on account of the construction of a paying ward in the Ernakulam General Hospital, I was not quite able to understand whether the cut was intended to show that the ward might be constructed at a less expense, or whether the ward itself is not necessary. I want to know this, because I, as the Diwan, have to do something; I have to exercise my power when allotments are reduced or omitted. Of course, Mr. Kochunni Menon was the mover of this particular motion. I want to be clear on the point. The thing is whether the amount proposed to be spent is too much; of course, at the time you sent the cut, you were under the impression that only 40 thousand would be required for the ward. In the course of the discussion, the Chief Engineer pointed out that Rs. 40,000 represented only a part of the expenditure, the total cost being a lakh and odd rupees. I want to know what I am to do with these 20 thousand rupees, because, as matters now stand, out of the Rs. 40,000 provided for, only 20,000 has been allowed by the House. Is the Government to utilise this amount for the construction of the ward or not? That is the question.

The same argument applies to the cut motion in regard to the music shed also. Of course, with regard to the opening of additional classes and other things, we can manage with the amount allowed. The amount asked for was Rs. 5,000; there was a reduction of Rs. 2,000. With the remaining amount of Rs. 3,000, we will carry on the opening of new classes. But here there is a special difficulty as to how the amount is to be utilised. From the nature of the discussion carried on yesterday, I was led to think that no music hall was necessary. What is the Government to do with the Rs. 5,000 sanctioned? I want to make

myself clear on the point in order to enable me to take action on the subject according to the powers conferred on the Diwan in regard to the amount disallowed by the Council.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, the whole procedure is out of order. We have passed the education cut and the other cuts; it is not our concern now to tell you what you are to do. The Government will have to shift for themselves. We have said what we had to say on the particular occasions.

President.—You must understand what we are doing. You may say that the procedure is out of order. What are we to do? The proceedings must be properly understood. These rules are laid down for our guidance to carry on the matters in a practical way. I want to understand, if there is a practical way of carrying out the resolutions of the House without infringing its powers. That is what I want to do. (*Hear, hear.*) I am enquiring to know the opinion of the House on various points that arise here.

Now, Mr. Kochunni Menon, don't you see that there is a real difficulty here? So I want to see how that can be solved. I thought over the matter—only when it was over. We are not able to see many things that strike us, except after some consideration. On the spur of the moment we are not able to think over the matter.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—So far as we are concerned there is no difficulty at all. We are not against having a paying ward. What was suggested here was that it was not the provision for the paying ward alone. The paying ward forms only a minor part. We have no objection in having a paying ward for Rs. 20,000.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—To whom has the word 'we' reference? The Member is not correct in saying that 'we' do not hold the view.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—It was my motion, and I thought we were all agreed. Hereafter I shall be more careful. I shall only use 'I'.

President.—So your position is that you want a paying ward for Rs. 20,000 but it should not exceed that amount. It is for attaining this object that you have pressed the cut motion. So the Government can, according to your view, proceed with the construction of the paying ward at a cost of Rs. 20,000.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We are against spending even Rs. 20,000. We are of opinion that nothing need be done before the Special Finance Committee submits its report. That is our position. We wanted to omit the whole allotment.

President.—I am on the cut motion carried by the House, i. e., of Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon. He said he had no objection

in having a paying ward, provided the cost is limited to Rs. 20,000, and you all voted for it. Now, in regard to the music shed, what is your position? There also, there is the same difficulty. We provided Rs. 10,000; you wanted it to be reduced to Rs. 5,000, and it has been carried. Is the Government at liberty to spend this Rs. 5,000 for the music shed? Is that what you want? It seemed to me from the discussion raised on the motion that you were not for its construction.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, the only thing is we wanted to be a little more generous, and therefore it is that we reduced the expenditure only to Rs. 5,000. We would have moved for its total omission.

Mr. C. Matthai.—But there is this point also to be remembered. The Member for Public Works is saying that it was not for the music shed alone. It was for the gymnasium, latrine, etc.

President.—All these are no arguments. They have understood all these. Their point is “we give you Rs. 5,000. You have to manage with this. “We are not going to give you a pie more”. That is the position. The question is whether we should take advantage of the provision of Rs. 5,000 to do something or other for that purpose, or to give up the whole thing.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Rs. 5,000 would not at all be enough for the music shed. It would be better not to construct the building at all.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The stage of discussion is over, Sir.

President.—So far as the Council is concerned, they are prepared to sanction only that amount. The Government may make use of that amount or not. It is not for the Council to say “we gave you Rs. 5,000; why did you not spend it?” That is not their duty.

Mr. C. Matthai.—If you give up the whole structure—

Dr. A. G. Menon.—This discussion is out of order.

President.—Yes, he is out of order. He could not discuss the motion that was already before the House on the previous days. It is only for my information that I ask these questions, so that I may give effect to the motion of the House in that particular matter.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—May I offer a word of explanation, Sir, so that the House may be in a position to know the facts relating to this building?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On a point of order, Sir.

President.—The motion is not before the House. You will not be allowed to speak anything in regard to it now.